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MEMORIAL
TO
GENERAL JACOB GOULD
1794-1867

Class F129

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General Jacob Could was born in Boxford, Massachusetts, on the 10th day of February, 1794, and died in Rochester, N. Y., on the morning of the 18th of November, 1867, aged 73 years.

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General Jacob Gould.

The public Journals of the city of Rochester, on the morning of the 18th of November, contained the following mournful intelligence.

" Yesterday afternoon, Ex-Mayor Gen. Jacob Gould was found stricken with apoplexy in the stables attached to his residence on South Fitzhugh street. He was unconscious when found, and remained so to the time of his death, which took place at half past three o'clock the following morning. His absence from the house was noticed by his family, and on search being made for him he was found as above stated. It is supposed that he went to the stables for the purpose of viewing his horses and feeding a favorite cow. He fell partially in one of the stalls of the stable, and though near the horses, was not stepped upon or injured in any way by them. Medical aid was called, but all was in vain.

" He has gone to his long repose like—

> " One who wraps the drapery of his couch about him—
> And lies down to pleasant dreams,"

leaving behind him a spotless reputation, a character unstained, and a bright example which it would be no shame to follow and whose graces it would be well to imitate. An obituary, prepared by a gentleman who knew the deceased well will be found on another page."

The funeral was attended on Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 20th, from the first Presbyterian church, by a large concourse of people, consisting not only of the friends and family relations of the deceased, but of public citizens and persons from all classes in the community. The Ex-Mayors of the city, Messrs. Pitkin, Ward, Smith, Stilwell, Field, Keeler, Scrantom, Williams, Strong, Clark, Filon, Brackett, S. W. D. Moore, and D. D. T. Moore, headed by the present Mayor, Hon. H. L. Fish, sat in the front pews of the church. Next to them sat the Members of the Common Council, the Board of Supervisors and the Trustees of the University of Rochester. The family

and relatives from different parts of the State came next, and the general public filled the church to its utmost capacity.

The exercises, which were marked by unusual interest, commenced with chanting by the choir, after which selections from the Scriptures were read by Rev. Dr. Hall, and a hymn, given out by Rev. Mr. Wines, was sung by the choir.

President Anderson then delivered an impressive discourse, and concluded as follows:—

"On an occasion like this the mind oscillates between sorrow for the common bereavement and that calm and elevated joy which affects the mind in view of the completed career of a man whose character was so rounded into symmetry, strength and beauty. I sympathize with these mourners, for I myself am one with them. For the entire course of my residence in this city, I have had the honor of his friendship. He was among the very first of the citizens of Rochester to greet me as I came here a stranger. Associated with him afterwards as a Trustee of the University, and in other business relations, I learned to respect and love the more, as I knew him with greater intimacy.

"This occasion is too significant and impressive to be given to private mourning or the utterance of personal sorrow. We should rather seek to learn the lesson of a life so rich in the illustration of personal and christian virtue.

"We are reminded in the first place of the, eminent kindliness of his nature. Christian courtesy, unstudied and spontaneous, was one of his most distinguishing characteristics. No one ever came to him with a story of genuine distress, without securing a patient hearing, sympathy and assistance.

"Another modification of this general tendency of his life was manifested in his public spirit. This seems to me more peculiarly a christian virtue than it is ordinarily thought to be. There are social, educational, moral and religious interests which affect the well-being of the entire community. These are too often neglected. Men who suffer their whole energies to be absorbed in the struggle for reputation or gain, can give little time to what regards the community as a whole. They judge the time required to provide for the public welfare, and leave common interests, however important, to take care of themselves. Looked at from this point of view, public spirit is among the distinctive christian virtues. It is simply living not for selfish ends alone, but for others. Whatever related to the moral, educational or physical well-being of our city always commanded the labor, money and time of our

departed friend. In this respect, his life was especially worthy of the attention of the young men of our city.

"Mercantile honor and personal integrity were also distinguishing elements in the character of Gen. Gould. Occupying various and important positions of trust, both as a private citizen and an officer of government, his integrity through life remained without spot. In times like the present, when integrity in public functionaries is rather the exception than the rule, we can better appreciate the value and example of such a life. Such a character and reputation have a value which no wealth or political honors can equal.

"Connected with these virtues, and even growing out of them, our departed friend possessed that well balanced combination of faculties, which in action we denominate sound common sense. I say that this good sense grew out of his character, because it seemed not more an intellectual trait than it was the outgrowth of his rounded and mature character. From his quick sympathy and natural kindliness of nature, he was able readily to put himself into the condition of others, to see as they saw, and feel as they felt, and from this to form just and accurate judgments of the proper course of thought and action to adopt in dealing with others. His excellent judgment seemed the result of seeking always to apply the golden rule of our Savior in his intercourse with men. This capacity of saying and doing the right thing at the right time seemed with him almost an instinct. Hence, we have said that his sound and excellent judgment on which so much reliance was always placed, was an element of character as much as an element of mind.

"This completeness and beauty of character was the result of a singularly harmonious and well proportioned mental and moral constitution, controlled by clear and finely held christian convictions. These convictions finally wrought themselves into habits, so that what was at first done from a sense of duty, came at last to be pleasure, and to spring spontaneously from his soul as by a natural law of his soul's life. In spite of all differences with his fellow citizens, either political or religious, this whole community came to repose the most implicit confidence in the personal kindness, honor, fairness, integrity and sound judgment of our departed friend. He leaves to his family and this city a legacy of character with which no earthly honor or possession can compare.

"None knew him but to love him,
None named him but to praise."

"No words of mine can set forth the lesson of his life, so impressively

as he himself has done in his labor and intercourse with his fellow citizens for the last forty years. God grant that we all be better men and better citizens through the example of the christian virtues which he has left to us."

Rev. Mr. Wines, the pastor, followed with some impressive remarks to the church, of which the deceased had been a prominent member from its organization; referring to the strong friendship between them during the time of his own connection with the church, and closed with an eloquent prayer, after which the choir sang the closing hymn.

At the conclusion of the services, the congregation passed around in front of the pulpit and looked for the last time on the life-like features of the deceased. The body was then carried out of the church by eight young men who acted as bearers, the pall-bearers being the friends of the deceased and his life-long companions in public service. One of the largest funeral processions ever seen in this city followed the remains to Mount Hope Cemetery, and the body, after its long pilgrimage on this earth, was deposited in the family tomb, opposite the portal of the Cemetery.

Resolutions of the University of Rochester.—At a meeting of the Executive Board of the University of Rochester, called on account of the death of Hon. Jacob Gould, the following resolutions were adopted:

1. *Resolved*, That we deeply sympathize with the bereaved family of our late associate, Hon. Jacob Gould, whose hearts have been so suddenly afflicted.

2. *Resolved*, That we mourn, in common with the whole community, the loss of a citizen whose integrity and ability, though constantly tested, have never been found deficient in all the varied and highly responsible positions which he has been called upon to occupy.

3. *Resolved*, That the loss to this Board is peculiarly severe, and that his devotion to the interests of this University should cause his memory to be held in grateful remembrance by all the friends of an institution to which his efforts and influence have been so valuable and essential.

4. *Resolved*, That Jacob Gould, with Frederick Whittlesey, Everard Peck, Friend Humphrey, William L. Marcy, John N. Wilder, Robert Kelly, James Edmunds, Seneca Burchard, John Munro and Edwin Pancost, will long be remembered as Trustees who gave their efforts in founding the University as well as the ripe experience of matured wisdom in guarding the interests committed to their hands.

5. *Resolved*, That the Faculty be invited to unite with this Board in attending the funeral services of our respected colleague, and that a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to his family.

G. W. Burbank, *Chairman.*
Wm. N. Sage, *Secretary.*

Rochester, Nov. 19th, 1867.

Western House of Refuge, November 19, 1867.

Regular meeting of the Board at the office of the Superintendent. The President being absent, Mr. Charles J. Hill, second Vice President, called the Board to order, and taking the chair, and before proceeding to the regular business of the meeting, announced to the Board the death of Gen. Jacob Gould, one of the managers of the institution and the first Vice President of the Board, which occurred on the morning of the 18th inst., and then proceeded to remark as follows:

"*Gentlemen of the Board.* We meet to-day under circumstances of solemn import. The First Vice President, who was expected to occupy the chair on this occasion, lies silent in the embrace of death. Gentlemen, Jacob Gould—one of the most useful and valued members of this Board from its formation, one of the oldest and most respected of the solid men of our city, a christian gentleman, who by his good sense, intelligence, scrupulous integrity, genial disposition and business talent, occupied a high position in business and social circles—has been suddenly removed by an inscrutable Providence; and while his remains are resting to-day in the bosom of his grief-stricken family, his seat at this Board is vacant. It seems fitting that we, his survivors, should pause a moment to duly notice this sad event, and to briefly refer to the virtues of the deceased. We miss him here to-day; he will be missed in all our business, all our social circles and our public meetings. In the congregation where he worshipped, and above all, in his family circle, where he was most endeared. In fine, Rochester is bereaved by this dispensation. It behooves us, his survivors, to aim at an increase of diligence and fidelity in all the relations of life, and especially to heed the injunction to 'be also ready.'"

On motion of Mr. L. A. Ward.

Resolved, That the remarks of the Vice President in relation to the death of Gen. Gould be adopted as expressing the views and opinions of this Board, and that the Secretary be instructed to enter the same at length upon the minutes, and furnish a copy to the family of the deceased and for publication in the public papers.

Isaac Hills, *Secretary.*

Resolutions of the Common Council.—A special meeting of the Common Council was held last evening to take appropriate action on the death of Gen. Jacob Gould, the second Mayor of the city of Rochester.

Ald. Relyea was called to the chair in the absence of the President of the Board.

Ald. Andrews moved that a committee of three be appointed to draft suitable resolutions.

The Chair appointed as such committee Ald. Andrews, Taylor and Kelly.

The committee reported the following resolutions which were unanimously adopted.

By Ald. Andrews— *Whereas*, It has pleased an all-wise Providence to suddenly remove by death our former fellow citizen, Gen. Jacob Gould, who, with other public trusts has upon two different occasions occupied the position as Mayor of the city; and

Whereas, This Board of Common Council, desiring to manifest the respect which they in common with the city of Rochester bore to the deceased, one who has been so prominently identified with the growth and prosperity of the city, and who in all the relations of life was so worthy the respect and esteem of his fellow citizens, be it

Resolved, That this Board has learned with painful emotions of the decease of our former fellow citizen, Jacob Gould, and that to the members of his family in their deep affliction the sympathy and condolence of the Board are tendered.

Resolved, That in testimony of respect for his character and virtues we will attend the funeral in a body, and do hereby invite his honor the Mayor and Ex-Mayors of the city and all other municipal officers to unite with us on the occasion.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to make arrangements in accordance with the foregoing resolution.

Resolved, That the Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolution to the family of the deceased.

E. R. Andrews,
Geo. Taylor,
Jas. H. Kelly.

Remarks eulogistic of the deceased were made by Ald. Andrews, Taylor and Kelly.

The Chair appointed, as a committee, to carry out the resolutions of the Board, Ald. Woodruff, Paine and Qualtrough.

On motion, the Mayor and acting President of the Board adjourned

to meet at the Common Council Chamber to-day (Wednesday) at 1 o'clock, P. M., to attend the funeral.

Resolutions of the President and Directors of the Farmers and Mechanics National Bank upon the Death of General Jacob Gould.—A special meeting of the President and Directors of the Farmers and Mechanics National Bank of Rochester, of which Gen. Jacob Gould at the time of his death was a Director, and of which he had been President from 1850 to 1866.—was held at the bank, on Tuesday, November 19th, 1867, at which the following Resolutions offered by Hon. Alfred Ely, were unanimously passed:—

Resolved, That the death of General Gould is a public calamity, which deprives the city of Rochester of one of its most valuable and estimable citizens—of one whose life has been closely identified with its history almost from its settlement, and to whom it is indebted for many long continued and important public services.

Resolved, That the Board of Directors of this Bank, with which he was so long and so intimately connected as President and as Director, deeply lament his loss as that of a beloved friend, and associate; of an honorable, upright and useful citizen; and of a kind, courteous and conscientious christian gentleman.

Resolved That the President and Directors of the Farmers and Mechanics National Bank, respectfully tender to the family of the deceased their heartfelt sympathy and condolence, in their sad bereavement, in the sorrow of which, they themselves peculiarly share, from long personal friendship and association.

Resolved, That a copy of these Resolutions, signed by the officers of the Bank, be transmitted to the family of the deceased.

Alfred Ely, President.
Thomas Raines, Cashier.

The death of Jacob Gould has elicited the following notice in the Albany *Argus*, from one * who knew him and appreciated his rare excellence of character:

New Lebanon, Nov. 19, 1867.

The late Gen. Jacob Gould, of Rochester, was no ordinary man. He delighted in performing all his duties, public and private, as a citizen, husband and father, in the best possible manner. I first became intimate with him when President Polk, without solicitation, or expectation on his part, appointed him Marshal of the Northern District of New York. No Marshal was more conscientious and attentive, or more

* A late resident of Washington.

successful in discharging his duties. He attended to them personally as far as possible. The District Attorneys of that day, owe him much for his sagacity and assistance in hunting up evidence and preparing their cases for trial. When first appointed, he visited Washington to consult the accounting of the Treasury to ascertain what he could rightly pay out and have allowed on settlement. The Comptroller gave him full and accurate information, and advised him if anything of a new character was presented, not to pay until he had asked for and received instructions. He faithfully followed this advice, and never had an item in his accounts rejected or questioned at the Treasury. During his whole official term, within three or four days after the end of the quarter, he presented his accounts in the most perfect order, with every voucher perfect and true in form and substance. The labor of adjusting such accounts was trifling. They were promptly settled, he seldom being detained more than from two to three days at the Department.

At that time he was the first Marshal who exhibited a surplus of emoluments in his accounts, and this surplus, amounting in all from fifteen hundred to two thousand dollars was promptly paid over to the Treasury. This was something new among officials, who were limited, in the amount of emoluments they might retain. At that time my relations were such in the Department that I well understand all about the Marshals and District Attorneys. It was conceded that General Gould was the ablest, most thorough and prompt and conscientious man among all the Marshals. He was recommended by those who understood these matters to others as a model worthy of imitation. In his manners he was cordial and gentlemanly, never yielding to the impulses of temper, or manifesting personal dislike. He had remarkably clear conception of all his duties and relations, and had a singularly ready way of communicating them. My object in writing is not to give an obituary of him, but to call attention to the mode of doing things by a highly competent and remarkably successful man in business, hoping that many in official life may profit by it.

R. H. G.

General Jacob Gould.

Was born in Boxford, Essex county, Massachusetts, on the 10th day of February, 1794. His father, Capt. Jacob Gould, was a native of the same town. His grandfather, of the same name and place, was lieutenant of the militia in said town, in the American Revolution, and was occasionally on duty. His mother was a Peabody, from the adjoining town of Middleton, in which and in Danvers, and the now city of Salem, reside many of the same name, having descended from the same ancestry; some of whom are extensively known as most successful as well as honorable in the commercial world.

The subject of this brief sketch lived with his parents, who were poor but respectable, on the old farm—hallowed by having descended from father to son, where naught new was allowed to come; indeed, the whole town was famed for its at that time called stability; it had no public house, no justice of the peace, and for years and years not a law suit, small or great, amongst its inhabitants. The schools were of the ordinary class of Massachusetts country schools, kept three months in the winter by a man, the same time in summer by a woman. To these the subject of this sketch went when his labor on the farm could be conveniently dispensed with. When twelve years of age, he had permission from his father to labor for a neighbor eight days in the fall, doing the work of a man for the wages of a boy, viz: a shilling per day, Massachusetts currency. With this money he bought Morse's geography, which had in it two maps, the World and North America. This was at the time considered extravagant, and caused great jealousy with one another, when it was taken to school to unite with the art of reading a knowledge of the world.

The next year a similar process brought forth Perry's Dictionary, which constituted quite a library. At the age of sixteen it was determined he should learn the shoemaker's trade, and for this purpose a bargain was made to serve a year with a man living about a mile from

his father's, the Sabbaths to be spent at home during the year. His master being exacting, he had no opportunities for improvement except in his trade: in this he was quite successful; the last week of school in his district he was, however, permitted to attend, at the request of the teacher, (now the Hon. Benjamin A. Gould, of Boston, then seventeen years of age, whose great success afterwards as a teacher in Boston is well known,) and take part in the examination. The year after, he was hired to a man near the center of the parish, to work at his trade and tend a small West India goods store in the absence of his principal.

The succeeding year he worked at his trade, except occasionally assisting on the farm. During the winter he attended school, which was taught by a respectable but unqualified teacher. Soon after this, he was afflicted with a severe cold, which so alarmed the family that further labor at his trade was abandoned.

During the following season, 1812, he spent three months at West Bradford Academy, renowned the world over as the school where Harriet Atwood, afterwards Harriet Newell, Miss Hazeltine, Mrs. Judson, were instructed, with many other choice, kindred spirits. Here also, the subject of this biography first resolved to serve the Lord.

The succeeding winter, 1812-13, he taught school; the one after, 1814, in his native district; his third and last winter in Massachusetts as a teacher, Mr. Gould instructed in the village of East Bradford, where he became acquainted with the Rev. Mr. Perry, D. D., the clergyman of the parish, who had spent a year at Union College, Schenectady, as tutor, and by whose advice, in the spring of 1815, being twenty-one years of age, he took the journey to Albany without friends or associates, literally alone, with a letter from Dr. Perry to the Hon. Gideon Hawley, then Superintendent of Common Schools for the State of New York.

With a letter from Superintendent Hawley, Mr. Gould proceeded west, intending to go into the interior, as far as Utica, seeking employment as a teacher. On arriving at Schenectady, he was invited by the Rev. J. Mabon, who had charge of Union College Grammar School, to stay over and visit the president and professors of the college, and, at their request, he took charge of the English department in said school at his own risk as to pay, charging a reasonable tuition. Here he continued to teach with good success for four years—the last three in connection with the Rev. D. H. Barnes, afterwards a prominent teacher in the city of New York, whose untimely death numerous friends and an affectionate family will never cease to mourn.

Owing to some misunderstanding between the trustees and teachers,

Mr. Barnes went to New York and Mr. Gould to Rochester, a small but promising village of ten or twelve hundred inhabitants, situated on both sides of the Genessee River, at its falls—the east side being in the county of Ontario, the west side in the county of Genessee.

The business of teaching being abandoned for the more active employment of merchandising, he went into the business of manufacturing and selling boots and shoes. This was continued for more than twenty years, connected with an extensive wholesale trade in leather, &c., to as great, if not greater extent, than any other establishment in Western New York.

Occasionally he was honored with office—his military career was of a character peculiar to those times. In 1824, he was elected captain of a nearly lifeless artillery company, but as he never intended to do things by halves, he, by his energy, revived the spirits of those already enlisted, which had the effect to encourage others, so that a handsome company was soon the result. Some difficulty the winter following, at a court-martial, caused an application to the adjutant-general for a division of the regiment, which was promptly made.

The subject of this sketch was elected colonel. The same process in another quarter caused a division of the brigade; before the colonel's commission arrived he was duly elected brigadier-general, and in that capacity appeared before a regiment the same fall.

The winter following, a major-general had to be appointed by the Governor and Senate. Here a principle had to be settled causing no little trouble. The subject of this sketch was a few days the senior brigadier, and had held a commission but little over a year, while the junior brigadier was an old officer of more than twenty years' service, and claimed the appointment from Governor Clinton and the Senate on this account; it was settled, however, and has since been referred to as a precedent, governing subsequent action in similar cases, that Mr. Gould was entitled to the appointment, which he received, going from a citizen to that of major-general of artillery in less than two years.

In 1829 he was appointed by President Jackson, collector of the customs for the district of Genessee, and re-appointed; and again appointed by President Van Buren.

Soon after this he resigned the office to attend with more diligence to his private affairs.

In 1836 he was elected President of the Rochester City Bank; held the office two years, and then resigned. Subsequently, when some difficulty arose in said institution, he was invited to its presidency again, which office he held until all trouble was past. He was twice

elected mayor of the city of Rochester, which was incorporated in 1834.

In 1845, unexpectedly to himself and friends, he was appointed U. S. Marshal for the Northern District of New York by President Polk, which office he held four years.

To show the energy with which these duties were performed, it may be stated that there were more convictions for counterfeiting coin, robbery of the mails, etc., during his term, than for twenty years previous. In his duties he was ably sustained by the court, and especially by Judge Allen, of Oswego, the U. S. District Attorney, and George W. Clinton, Esq., of Buffalo, his successor in office.

In 1850, he was elected financial officer of the Farmers and Mechanics Bank of Rochester, a bank under the general banking law of the State, which he held until 1866.

The difference between the subject of this sketch and many others, was a perseverance in whatever was undertaken, until all obstacles were overcome and success complete.

His first political efforts were to sustain his most esteemed friend, Governor Clinton, in 1820, and afterward until his death. After that mournful event, with untiring energy he labored to elect Gen. Jackson to the presidency. He often mentioned being in Portsmouth, N. H., in the summer of 1826, visiting, when he announced himself as a Jackson man. The next day he was introduced as such by his friends, as a curiosity in those parts, being the first known. He has cordially supported the democratic party, and always received the confidence of his political friends of both high and low standing, which confidence has never been abused for selfish or improper purposes.

Socially, the subject of this sketch was proverbially affectionate and kind. Being the second child and oldest son, much responsibility rested upon him in early life, on account of a lameness of his father, occurring from an accident, when the subject of this sketch was only eight years old.

He married, at the age of twenty-two, Ruby Swan, of North Andover, Massachusetts, with whom he lived happily twenty-four years. She was then called to that "bourne from which none return," leaving three children, two daughters and a son.

He married again in 1841, Sarah T. Seward, principal of the Seward Female Seminary, in Rochester, and has left with her a son and two daughters.

His labors and efforts were not confined to his own family and relatives. For many of these he did much; but he educated, and

helped to educate many, and also to establish the deserving in business. In all these efforts a desire to do good was apparent, and results might be cited showing that these labors have not been in vain.

In religion, the subject of this sketch was always decided. He united with the Presbyterian Church, in Schenectady, in 1817; was superintendent of the Female Sabbath School just established in that city, and afterwards in Rochester; was for a number of years an active elder in the First Presbyterian Church in Rochester, to which he took a letter when he left Schenectady, in 1819. At that time it was the only church of any denomination in Rochester; now there are one hundred or more. And he has remained ever since a consistent member and a regular attendant upon the services of this church. He built the house in which he has ever since resided, on South Fitzhugh street, in 1825, and has lived to see our city grow from a mere hamlet to an enterprising and flourishing city of nearly 60,000 inhabitants.

The death of an esteemed citizen whose life, from his earlier years to a ripe old age, has been spent in our midst, and closely identified with the growth and prosperity of our city, is, under any circumstances, calculated to awaken profound sorrow in the hearts of his fellow citizens, and that sorrow is augmented when, as in the case of the deceased, the blow comes suddenly and without a moment's warning. Stricken down, apparently in perfect health, he lingered in unconsciousness a few short hours upon the verge of the tomb, and without a parting word to those who loved him best and gathered in their anguish around him, his spirit took its flight to God who gave it. But, sad as were the circumstances of his departure, his mourning relatives and friends have the comforting assurance left them that he was not unprepared to go. He knew in whom he believed, and he has gone to the reward which is for those whose sins are washed away by the blood of Christ.

An affectionate and amiable husband and father, a faithful friend, an upright, genial citizen, and a Christian gentleman—in each and all the relations of life he was true to his maker and to himself, and he bequeaths to his friends and fellow citizens the record of an honorable, conscientious life, and a blameless walk and conversation. His death is a loss to our community, mitigated only by the memory of his virtues and the lustre reflected by his life and character upon our city. His sorrowing relatives will have the heartfelt sympathy of all in this community in their bereavement, peculiarly sad and impressive as it is, and many hearts will ask in silent supplication the mercy and love of God to sustain them in this dark hour of their affliction.

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